

## NATIONAL PARKS AND GAME RESERVES

### SAMBURU GAME RESERVE

**Introduction:** - Samburu National Reserve is a game reserve on the banks of the Ewaso Ng'iro River in Kenya. On the other side of the river is the Buffalo Springs National Reserve. The park is 165 km<sup>2</sup> in size and is situated 350 kilometers from Nairobi. It ranges in altitude from 800 to 1230m above sea level. It is located in Samburu County

**Wildlife:** - The reserve is rich in wildlife with famous Samburu special five species such as the Grevy's Zebra, Somali Ostrich, Reticulated Giraffe, Gerenuk and the Beisa Oryx. Lion, leopard and cheetah are also quite easy to spot, thanks to the sparse grass cover. Samburu National Reserve is also home to large herds of elephants, and also abundant with over 450 bird species.



**Climatic condition:** - The days are extremely hot while the nights are cool. The annual mean temperatures range between 18°C and 30°C, while the mean annual rainfall is 354mm with peaks in November and April. The dry season starts in late May, and goes up to early October during when large concentration of wildlife is found in the reserve due to availability of lush vegetation along the Ewaso Nyiro River, the main source of water to the Reserve and the nearby communities.

## MASAI MARA GAME RESERVE

**Introduction:** - The Maasai Mara National Reserve (also spelt Masai Mara) was established in 1948; it is approximately 1500sq. kms in size and adjoins Tanzania's Serengeti. Probably Kenya's number one tourist destination it holds spectacular scenery as well as vast amounts of bird and wildlife. The Reserve is famous for its' huge herds of Wildebeest and Zebra which migrate through Maasai Mara from the Serengeti around June-October each year. It is a reserve not a national park meaning it is totally unfenced and is run by the local county rather than the national Government.

**Wildlife:** - The Masai Mara is known as one of the finest wildlife destinations in the World. There is an excellent chance of seeing the Big 5, Cheetah, Serval cat, Hyena, Bat-eared foxes, Black-backed and Side-striped jackals, Hippo, Crocodile, Baboons, Warthog, Topi, Eland, Thompson's gazelle, Grant's gazelle, Impala, Waterbuck, Oribi antelope, Reedbuck antelope, and Common zebra. There are also huge numbers of Wildebeest during migration period.



**Climatic condition:** - Rainy season starts from November, throughout May with peak rainfall in December to January and May to April. Dry season starts from June till November. The altitude of Masai Mara is 5,300 feet (1,600 meters)

## **AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK**

**Introduction:** - Amboseli National Park, formerly **Maasai Amboseli Game Reserve**, is in Kajiado County, Kenya. The park is 39,206 hectares (392 km<sup>2</sup>; 151 sq. mi) in size at the core of an 8,000 km<sup>2</sup> (3,100 sq. mi) ecosystem that spreads across the Kenya-Tanzania border. The local people are mainly Maasai, but people from other parts of the country have settled there attracted by the successful tourist-driven economy. Crowned by Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, the Amboseli National Parks is one of Kenya's most popular parks.

**Wildlife:** - The Park is famous for being the best place in Africa to get close to free-ranging elephants among other wildlife species, including African bush elephants, Cape buffaloes, impala, East African lions, cheetahs, spotted hyenas, Maasai giraffes, Grant's zebras, and blue wildebeest

Other attraction of the park includes opportunities to meet the Maasai people and also offers spectacular views of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest free-standing mountain in the world.



**Climatic condition:** - The climate in the Amboseli region is hot and dry. The national park is in the rain shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro, as it lies on the northwest side. Average temperatures vary only slightly throughout the year. The minimum average daily temperature is 27°C and the maximum is 33°C. Drought is typical in this area, and evaporation is high. A total annual rainfall of just 300mm is expected during April and May, and again during November and December.

## MERU NATIONAL PARK

**Introduction:** - Meru National Park is a Kenyan Game park located east of Meru, 350 km from Nairobi. Covering an area of 870 km<sup>2</sup>, it is one best known National Parks in Kenya. Meru National Park was one of the two areas in which conservationists George Adamson and Joy Adamson raised Elsa the Lioness made famous in the best-selling book and award winning movie Born Free. Elsa the Lioness is buried in this park and part of Joy's ashes were scattered on her gravesite.

**Wildlife:** - The Park has a wide range of wild animals including the African bush elephant, East African lion, African leopard, Kenyan cheetah, Eastern black Rhinoceros, Southern white Rhinoceros, Grévy's zebra, and Hippopotamus. Others include; - former home of Joy and George Adamson and Elsa the Lioness, Views of Mt.Kenya, River and Riverine habitats, Tana River and Adamson's falls.



**Climatic conditions:** - Meru has a hot, arid climate. Humidity is low, which makes the heat less oppressive. Because it's close to the equator, temperatures are fairly uniform. Daytime temperatures are around 32°C, and at night temperatures fall to about 17°C. There is almost no rain in the Dry season from June to October. The Wet season from November to May is characterized by two periods of rain: the 'short rains' peak in November, and the 'long rains' peak in April.

## LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

**Introduction:** - Lake Nakuru National Park (188 km<sup>2</sup>, 73 mi<sup>2</sup>), was created in 1961 around Lake Nakuru, in Nakuru county. The park is well connected by a tarmac road from Nairobi and its network is accessible, sufficiently passable roads.

**Wildlife:** - Greater and Lesser Flamingo is the main attraction in the park, including other water birds approximately about 450 species in total.

Mammals: 56 different species including white Rhinos, Waterbuck etc.

### Other Attractions includes:-

- View-points: Lion hill, Baboon cliff and Out of Africa
- Hills: Enasoit, Honeymoon, Lion hill ridge etc.
- Waterfalls: Makalia.
- Unique vegetation: About 550 different plant species including the unique and biggest euphorbia forest in Africa, Picturesque landscape and yellow acacia woodlands.
- Cycle with rhino event every September yearly



### Climatic condition

Lake Nakuru National Park is officially classified as dry sub-humid to semi-arid, which basically

means it's not too wet and not too dry, or too hot or cold. The climate in this area is really beautiful.

## **ABERDARES NATIONAL PARK**

**Introduction:-** With altitudes ranging from 7,000 feet to 14,000 feet above sea level, the Aberdare National Park is located 260 kilometres (162 miles) from Nairobi. Since the 1950's, Aberdare National Park has been a major attraction and continues to be a favorite destination of travelers who love the outdoors and wildlife.

**Wildlife:-** Game animals easily seen in the park during game viewing include; African Elephant, Black Rhino, Leopard, Spotted Hyena, Olive baboon, Black and white Colobus monkey, Sykes monkey, Cape Buffalo, Warthog, Common Zebra, Bushbuck, Reedbuck. Rare sightings include; those of Giant Forest hog, bongo, Golden Cat, Serval Cat, African Wild Cat, African Civet Cat, Blue Duiker.

### **Others Includes:-**

- Very beautiful sceneries of Aberdare include magnificent waterfalls with the main ones being Karuru waterfalls which fall in three steps,
- Visitors can also indulge in picnics, trout fishing (in the past the rivers were stocked with brown rainbow trout) in the rivers and camping in the Moorlands. Bird viewing is rewarding with about 290 recorded bird species, including the Aberdare Cisticola that is critically endangered.



**Climatic Condition: -** The climate is usually cool and misty. Heavy rain occurs year-round, averaging as much as 3,000mm per annum in the southeast areas. Being close to the equator, temperatures are quite uniform throughout the year. It is strongly advised to take warm and waterproof clothing.

## **MOUNT KENYA NATIONAL PARK**

**Introduction:** - Climbing to 5,199 meters, Mount Kenya is the second tallest mountain in Africa. The scenery surrounding this designated World Heritage Site is breath-taking. 75 Kms from Nairobi, the park can be reached on Nanyuki-Isiolo road via Sirimon Track or Nyeri-Nanyuki road near Naro Moru. The park is also reachable via Chogoria on the Embu - Meru road, about 150km north of Nairobi.

**Wildlife:** - Wild animals that can be seen include elephant, Black and White Colobus monkey, Sykes monkey, Olive Baboon, buffalo, bushbuck, waterbuck, eland, black rhino, black fronted duiker, leopard, giant forest hog, genet cat, bush pig, mole rats, tree hyrax, porcupine, white tailed mongoose and hyena. More elusive is the bongo, a rare type of forest antelope.

**Others include:-** Pristine wilderness, lakes, tarns, glaciers and peaks of great beauty, geological variety, forest, mineral springs, rare and endangered species of animals, High altitude adapted plains game, Unique montane and alpine vegetation with 11 species of endemic plants.



**Climatic Condition:** - The climate varies with the altitude and temperatures at Mount Kenya National Park are cooler than throughout most of the country. The climate is subtropical or temperate. There is still a rainy season from March to May and from October to December when it is drizzly and cloudy. Rainfall is moderate on the lower slopes and heavier higher up. The sunniest months are from December through March.

## **OL PAJETA CONSERVANCY**

**Introduction:** - The Ol Pejeta Conservancy is a 90,000-acre (360 km<sup>2</sup>) not-for-profit wildlife conservancy in Central Kenya's Laikipia County. It is situated on the equator west of Nanyuki, between the foothills of the Aberdares and Mount Kenya. The Ol Pejeta Conservancy works to conserve wildlife, provide a sanctuary for great apes and to generate income through wildlife tourism and complementary enterprises for re-investment in conservation and community development.

**Wildlife:** - All members of the "Big five game" (lion, Cape buffalo, African elephant, leopard and rhinoceros) can be found on the Ol Pejeta Conservancy. Both black and white rhino thrive here.

### **Others include:-**

Other rare animals that can be found on Ol Pejeta include the endangered African wild dog, Oryx, Jackson's hartebeest, Grevy's zebra, serval, cheetah and bat-eared fox, africanwildlifecat, giraffes, vervet monkeys, baboons, hippos, impala, Grants gazelle, dik-dik and much more.



**Climatic condition:** - The climate is not as hot as you might expect, because of the conservancy's high altitude (1,826 meters). In fact, the temperature is pleasant year round. It will be chilly when you set out on your early morning game drive (so bring warm clothes), then it warms up, but not unbearably so, in the afternoons.

## LAKE BOGORIA NATIONAL RESERVE

**Introduction:** - This Lake is referred to as "The healing place" and is just about 3 hours' drive from Lake Nakuru. It is home to one of the largest populations of the lesser flamingoes. The lake is geothermally active on the western shore, with geysers and hot springs.

**Wildlife:** - There are many birds, but the real draw is the flamingos. Leopard tortoises are quite numerous. Mammals sometimes encountered are impala, dik-dik, zebra, Grant's gazelle and warthog. The reserve is home to one of Kenya's last remaining populations of greater kudu. Although present, these magnificent antelope are very shy and you need to be lucky to see them. Dusk and dawn are the best times for a chance encounter.



**Climatic condition:** - Being close to the equator, temperatures are quite uniform throughout the year at Lake Bogoria. Daytime temperatures are in the upper twenties, while it cools off considerably at night. Although there is a big altitude variation within the park, visitors are restricted to the road along the lake at the lower altitudes. Along the lakeshore, temperatures are higher than on the top of the escarpment. The area isn't very wet, but there is some rain throughout the year.

## LAKE ELEMENTAITA

**Introduction:-** Lake Elmenteita, also spelled Elementaita, is a soda lake, in the Great Rift Valley, about 120 km northwest of Nairobi, Kenya. Elmenteita is derived from the Masaai word muteita, meaning "dust place", a reference to the dryness and dustiness of the area, especially between January and March. The town of Gilgil is near the lake. In the south-to-north sequence of Rift Valley lakes, Elmenteita is between Lake Naivasha and Lake Nakuru.

**Wildlife: -** The Lake is a protected area due to its birdlife fame and also it has been named as one of the heritage sites by UNESCO. The lake's shores are grazed by zebra, gazelle, eland and families of warthog. Lake Elementaita has recorded over 400 species of birds and has attracted visiting greater and lesser flamingoes which come to feed on the lake's crustacean and insect larvae on its suspended **blue-green algae**



**Climatic condition: -** We recommend that you visit during the dry seasons that occur from July to October, January and March. The reason that we recommend these times is that the water sources are limited, so the animals gather around the few remaining fresh watering holes. As a result, wildlife viewing is better, and you get to see a variety of species interact in a relatively small area.

## LAKE NAIVASHA

**Introduction:** - Lake Naivasha is a freshwater lake in Kenya, outside the town of Naivasha in Nakuru County, which lies North West of Nairobi. It is part of the Great Rift Valley. The name derives from the local Maasai name Nai'posha, meaning "rough water" because of the sudden storms which can arise. Lake Naivasha is 1,890 meters (6,200 ft.) above sea level, and is at the highest point in the Kenyan rift valley.

**Wildlife:** - Lake Naivasha is home to a wide variety of wildlife including a sizeable population of hippos which usually invade close by properties during their nightly forays for food. Being a freshwater lake, it also has a healthy fish population to include Black bass, Tilapia and Crayfish which attract a variety of fish-eating birds such as Long-tailed and Great Cormorants, along with Fish Eagles, Pelicans, and various types of Kingfishers.

### Other attractions:-

- Boat riding
- Fishing
- Nature walk
- Interacting with the Locals and much more



**Climatic condition:** - The climate is warm and temperate in Naivasha. There is more rainfall in the winter than in the summer in Naivasha. The climate here is classified as Csb by the **Köppen-Geiger system**. The temperature here averages 17.1 °C. The average annual rainfall is 677 mm.

## LAKE BARINGO

**Introduction:** - Lake Baringo being one of the two fresh water lakes in the rift valley in Kenya, it is the most northern of the Kenyan Rift Valley lakes, after Lake Turkana. Lake Baringo has a surface area of about 130 square kilometers (50 sq. mi) and an elevation of about 970 meters (3,180 ft.). The lake is fed by several rivers, Molo, Perkerra and Ol Arabel, and has no obvious outlet.

**Wildlife:** - Lake Baringo is well known for two of its waters' residents- Hippo and Crocodile. There are plenty of both here, and visitors have no trouble seeing either. The crocodiles are often seen lying on the shores or swimming through the shallows hunting waterfowl. Hippos are seen in the lake on **boat trips**, and at Lakeside lodges and camps. Over 250 species of birds have been recorded here, for example Eagles, Cormorants and pelicans



**Climatic condition:-** There is two distinct weather patterns with temperatures in the southern part ranging between 25°C during the cold months (June and July) and 30°C during the hot months (January and February) while in the northern parts, temperatures range between 30°C to 35°C. The annual rainfall is between 1000mm and 1500mm in the highlands and 600mm in the lowlands. The long rains starts from March to June while the short rains starts in November.

## **TSAVO EAST NATIONAL PARK**

**Introduction:** - Tsavo East National Park is located in Taita- Taveta County near Voi town. The Park is one of the oldest Parks in Kenya at 13,747 square kilometres. Tsavo East National Park was opened in April 18, 2018. It is situated in a semi-arid area previously known as the Taru Desert.

**Wildlife:** - Tsavo East national park is the home of big five, not forgetting their famous red elephants. The park is also good for bird watchers with over 500 species of birds which have been recorded in the park.

Other attractions:-

- Lugard's Falls
- Yatta Plateau
- Mudanda Rock
- Aruba Dam
- Walking Safari



**Climatic Condition:** - Kenya lies across the equator, and Tsavo East National Park is just a few degrees latitude south. The temperature is fairly constant year round, but the rainfall varies. The tropical temperature ranges from 27-31°C (81-88°F) in the daytime and 22-24°C (72-75°F) at night. The long rainy season in Kenya lasts from March to May and the rainfall is heavy, making this a bad time for wildlife safaris. The short rainy season lasts from October to

December, but the weather during this period is still good enough to go on safari - just expect some afternoon showers. The humidity is high from December through April.

## **TSAVO WEST NATIONAL PARK**

**Introduction:-** Tsavo West is one of Kenya's larger national parks (7065 sq. km), covering a huge variety of landscapes from swamps, natural springs and rocky peaks to extinct volcanic cones, rolling plains and sharp outcrops dusted with greenery. The Park is famous for man-eating lions in the late 19th century.

**Wildlife:-** Tsavo West offers some of the most magnificent game viewing in the world and attractions include elephant, rhino, Hippos, lions, cheetah, leopards, Buffalos, diverse plant and bird species including the threatened corncrake and near threatened Basra Reed Warbler.

### **Other attractions:-**

- Mzima Springs
- Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary
- Shetani Lava Flow and Cave
- Chaimu Crater
- Lake Jipe



**Climatic Condition: -** Tsavo West NP has a climate characterized by hot and dry conditions. During the day, expect temperatures around 29°C/84°F, while 18°C/64°F is typical at night. Cool mornings mean warm clothing is a good idea for early game drives. Tsavo West's altitude varies from 419 to 1,677m (1,375 to 5,502ft). Temperatures fall by roughly 6.5°C for every 1,000m you ascend (or 3.5°F per 1,000ft), so there are wide climatic differences within the park. Rainfall peaks in April and November.

## **MOMBASA**

**Introduction:** - Mombasa is the second largest city in Kenya. Located on Kenya's Eastern coastline bordering the Indian Ocean, its original Arabic name is Manbasa. In Kiswahili it is called "Kisiwa cha Mvita", which means "Island of war" due to the many changes to its ownership.

### **Attractions:-**

#### **Fort Jesus**

The Fort, built by the Portuguese in 1593-1596 to the designs of Giovanni Battista Cairati to protect the port of Mombasa, is one of the most outstanding and well preserved examples of 16<sup>th</sup> Portuguese military fortification and a landmark in the history of this type of construction. The fort is a UNESCO world heritage site.



## **Mombasa Old Town**

Mombasa Old Town is one of the historical tourist attractions on Mombasa Island. It is located on the southeast side of Mombasa and occupies an area of 180 acres. It is inhabited by a mix of local, Arab, Portuguese, Asian and British communities. Mombasa Old Town and Fort Jesus are close to each other.



## **Haller Park**

Formerly known as Bamburi Quarry Nature Trail, and named after the founder, Dr. Haller Rene, who transformed it from a quarry to one of the best wildlife parks in Mombasa. It is a good place to spot a number of endangered wildlife and tree species.



### **Mamba Village Crocodile farm**

Mamba village is situated in Nyali area of Mombasa, Kenya. East Africa's largest crocodile farm, Mamba Village never fails to impress. The highlight of the day is a spectacular scene of blood-thirsty crocodiles fighting for food during feeding time.



### **Bombolulu Workshops and Cultural Center**

This non- profit organization produces crafts of high a standard and gives vocational training to physically disabled people. It was established to empower people with disability socially and economically, and to enable them realize their full potential in their lives. They also run a cultural center.



## **Mombasa Marine National Park and Reserve**

The Mombasa Marine National Park and Reserve is an unforgettable paradise of beautiful sun, sandy beach and safe ocean adventure. It is popular among Snorkelers and Scuba divers due to its abundant marine life, beautiful blue water and spectacular coral reefs.



### **Climatic condition**

Mombasa has a tropical climate. In winter, there is much more rainfall in Mombasa than in summer. The climate here is classified as by the Köppen-Geiger system. The temperature here averages 26.7 °C. About 1196 mm of precipitation falls annually.

## **MALINDI**

**Introduction:** - Malindi (once known as Melinde) is a town on Malindi Bay at the mouth of the Galana River, lying on the Indian Ocean coast of Kenya. It is 120 kilometers Northeast of Mombasa. The population of Malindi was 207,253 as of the 2009 census. It is the largest urban Centre in Kilifi County.

### **Attractions:-**

#### **Vasco da gama pillar**

Vasco da gama pillar is the most famous monument in Malindi. It is one of the oldest remaining monuments in Africa. This monument was built by vasco da gama; a Portuguese sailor and explorer in 1498 as a symbol of appreciation for the welcome that the Sultan of Malindi gave him.



## Portuguese Chapel

The Portuguese chapel also known as St Francis Xavier chapel is a spectacular Monument with a fascinating story behind its existence. It was built by Vasco da Gama before St. Francis Xavier visited Malindi in 1542



## Gedi Ruins

The Gedi Ruins is a 12<sup>th</sup> Century Swahili village that was mysteriously abandoned some 600 years ago. It is now a National Museum and it is overgrown by beautiful indigenous trees, baobabs and tamarind.



**Climatic condition:** - The climate here is tropical. The summers are much rainier than the winters in Malindi. According to **Köppen and Geiger**, this climate is classified as Aw. The average annual temperature is 26.3 °C in Malindi. In a year, the average rainfall is 1094 mm.